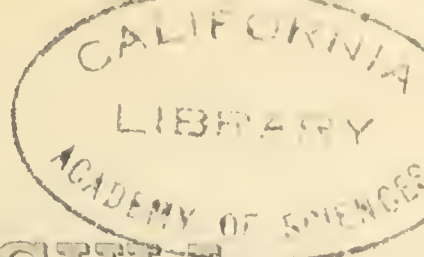


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# THE

MONTHLY



# GULL

BULLETIN

VOLUME 3

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY, 1921

NUMBER 2

**FEBRUARY MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 10th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Lecture Hall of the California Development Board, mezzanine floor of the Ferry Building.

Mr. H. S. Swarth, Honorary President of the Association, will deliver an address on the "Fables and Fallacies of Ornithology."



**FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP** will be taken to Easton, on Sunday, February 13th. Party will form at corner of Fifth and Market Streets, San Francisco, to take auto bus leaving there at 8:55 a. m. East Bay members should reach Ferry Building not later than 8:40 and take car up Market to Fifth Street. Bring lunch and canteens. Leave bus at Easton Drive. Walk about two and one-half miles and back. Bus fare 25c each way. Leader, Mr. George Wright.



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING:** The fourth annual meeting was held on January 13th, in the Ferry Building, with President D'Evelyn in the chair; Mrs. C. R. Smith, Secretary; about forty members and guests in attendance. Following the presentation of annual reports, Dr. Evermann entertained the meeting with an account of his visit to the Hawaiian Islands in attendance upon the Pan-Pacific Scientific Congress. This was profusely illustrated by lantern slides and specimens of the various lava types erupted from the active volcanoes.

After the lecture, the meeting proceeded to nominate officers and directors for the coming year. Mr. H. S. Swarth, Curator of Birds, California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, was named as Honorary President. It was a foregone conclusion that Dr. D'Evelyn would continue in office during the coming year, but to the surprise of the members, he insisted upon being relieved from further work, thus precipitating such confusion that, after random nominations for various offices, the election was postponed until the February meeting.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1920

President D'Evelyn, reading from his report to the National Association of Audubon Societies, summarized the activities of the Association under the following heads: Experimental Grounds and Nesting Boxes, where an average of 92% tenancy has been attained; Field Trips; Correspondence Bureau; Monthly Lectures; California State Wild Flower Exhibit, with display of mounted birds; Junior Bird Diary Competition, with diplomas and badges for competitors, National Ribbons donated by National Forestry Association and Bird Charts presented by the Harvester Association of Chicago; Protective Work in abating the pollution of ocean and bay waters of our coast by oil from bilges and tanks of ships; also in behalf of the Alaska Eagles, in co-operation with the Cooper Ornithological Club; and publication of a monthly Bulletin.

Dr. D'Evelyn expressed his appreciation of the hearty co-operation secured from the local press, school boards and teaching staff, and in conclusion, emphasized the importance of the work of the Audubon Societies of the United States in conservation of bird life and preservation of the products of the field.



### CENSUS OF BIRDS' NESTS IN THE MUSIC CONCOURSE, GOLDEN GATE PARK, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., FOR 1920

Extending to the eastward of the music stand in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, lies a slightly sunken oval plot known as the Music Concourse. This is surrounded by roads and walks, and planted with deciduous trees which are kept close cropped at the top to make them spread and give more shade. A general level of sixteen or eighteen feet for the broadened out tree tops produces a singularly uniform effect when viewed from the slightly higher ground surrounding the plot. Years of pruning have multiplied the smaller branches until the mass of foliage, when the leaves are out, is very dense, making a wonderful place for the nests of small birds, safe from prying eyes in spite of the nearness to the ground and to the many people who stroll around or occupy benches beneath.

A more or less interrupted, hedge-like fringe of bushes extends around the concourse at about the level of the tree tops, and from such a shelter, as well as from some small clumps of palm trees nearby, the birds can fly directly to their nests, over the heads of the human occupants of the grove, without attracting attention.

In 1919 the idea of taking a census of these nests was suggested by Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Director of the Museum, California Academy of Sciences, and was first carried out that year (vide *The Gull*, Vol. 2, No. 1, Jan. 1920), a total of 57 being the reward for his efforts.

The number of trees given in that article is 289, but, including a row of trees on the edge of the concourse, in which a nest or so was found this year, a recount makes the total 312.

In the first census no particular effort was made to ascertain the different species of the nest builders, but it was assumed that the majority were the Nuttall Sparrow. At that time all the old nests were destroyed so that a clear field was left for the next count. In this 1920 census we endeavored to determine the species to which the nests belonged, and while this was more or less a matter of conjecture in some cases, we were greatly assisted in this work by the presence in several doubtful nests of old eggs, or fragments of eggs, and sometimes of remains of birds. The examining board for the 1920 census consisted of Dr. Evermann, Mr. Chase Littlejohn, assistant curator of ornithology, and the writer.

For some reason the result of the 1920 count was much greater than that of the previous year, the number of nests found being 89, although no increase in the number of birds in this part of the park had been noticed. But, as explained above, birds can fly into their nests from nearby shelter without attracting much attention, as far as sparrows are concerned, and the linnets and goldfinches drop in from above.

The music concourse is about 550 ft. long by 200 ft. wide, where the trees are, and at the west end is the music stand where a large orchestra plays on Sundays and holidays, when fair, and these concerts are attended by large crowds of people who occupy the benches beneath the trees and sit on the surrounding slopes. As it seldom rains in San Francisco in May and June these concerts are held pretty regularly. The music stand is so arranged as to concentrate the sound upon the concourse, making the volume great at times, yet there were some nests in the nearby rows of trees, which were planted to within 60 feet of the music stand. There were fewer here than elsewhere, however.

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The nests found in the concourse in 1920 were of the following species, as nearly as we could determine them: House Finch (*Carpodacus m. frontalis*) 53; Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) 2; Green-backed Goldfinch (*Astragalinus p. hesperophilus*) 2; English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) 4; Nuttall Sparrow (*Zonotrichia l. nuttalli*) 27; Western Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella s. arizonae*) 1. Total 89.

In a few cases there were two, and once or twice three nests in one tree, but seldom more than one. Probably some of the extra ones were deserted or robbed. Some of the nests were very foul, while many others looked as if they had never contained young. Where robbery had taken place the probabilities are greatly in favor of the thief having been one of the park squirrels, or perhaps a stray cat, as there are but few other enemies of birds in the park.

The nests were mostly composed of dried grasses and weeds, rootlets, sometimes a few small twigs mixed in, dead leaves, shreds of bark and of the outer covering (epidermis) of weeds, bits of old newspaper and often twine, of which latter the English and Nuttall Sparrows used a great deal. The grasses and weeds must have had some seed attached when gathered, to judge by the crop of green growth in some nests, after so much rain this fall. This growth consisted in part of *Centaurea, Militenis* and *Tocalote*, as identified by Miss Alice Eastwood, of the Department of Botany. We were surprised to find that the House Finches had mostly used rootlets in their nest construction and but little else.

The determination of the species of the nest builders was greatly aided by the remains of eggs and birds found in the nest in many cases. Of nests of the House Finch four contained one egg each, probably infertile; one contained four eggs, evidently deserted, and two held the remains of birds. Of the Nuttall Sparrow two nests contained one egg, one two eggs, and one the skeleton of a bird. A Pine Siskin's nest also held the remains of its owner, with sufficient feathers still adhering to make determination easy, and two eggs were found in that of an English Sparrow.

Appearances indicated that something like half the nests were either unfinished, deserted or robbed.

JOSEPH MAILLARD,  
California Academy of Sciences.



## REPORT OF THE OUTING COMMITTEE FOR 1920

It is very pleasing to your Committee to be able again to report an increase in attendance and interest at the Field Trips of 1920.

Trips taken were one each to the following: Lake Merritt and Trestle Glen, Golden Gate Park, Hayward, Lafayette, Fairfax, Tennessee Cove, University of California Campus, Bay Farm Island, Lake Lagunitas, Muir Woods and Big Lagoon and twice to Lake Merced, one time in the Spring and another in the Fall.

One hundred forty different species of birds were observed, with an average of forty-two per trip. The largest number on any one trip being sixty-five at Lake Merced in April, with Lake Merritt and Trestle Glen in January and Golden Gate Park in February coming next each with fifty-six species.

Forty-nine different members attended the twelve trips, with a total attendance of one hundred forty seven, or an average of twelve members per trip. Sixty-one guests participated, with an average of five per trip, making the total attendance over seventeen per trip.

Of the total one hundred fifty-seven trips taken by members or guests who after became members, sixty-seven trips were made by eighteen old members and ninety trips were taken by thirty-one members who joined the Association since 1917. This shows a healthy division of interest and indicates that on an average there was one old member in attendance for every pair of new members.

Your Committee feels that the welfare of the Association depends to a large extent upon the assistance rendered by the older members to the newer ones.



## THE GULL

Probably the greatest proportion of our really active members has joined the Association primarily to learn the local birds and each of us rests under a moral obligation to pass along something of what we have received ourselves.

MRS. A. S. KIBBE, *Chairman.*



### FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER

Cash on hand, January 3, 1920 ..... \$ 52.38

#### RECEIPTS:

Annual dues for 1919.....	\$ 6.00	
Annual dues for 1920.....	260.50	
Annual dues for 1921.....	24.50	
Subscriptions to Gull, 1919 .....	.70	
Subscriptions to Gull, 1920 .....	1.40	
Subscriptions to Gull, 1921 .....	1.05	
Sales of Gull .....	.20	294.35    \$346.73

#### EXPENDITURES:

Hall and services.....	\$ 16.25	
Postage .....	35.70	
Stationery .....	19.36	
Publishing Gull .....	211.00	
National Association dues.....	5.00	\$287.31

Cash on hand, January 10, 1921..... 59.42    \$346.73

#### MEMBERSHIP CARDS issued to date:

For year	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	Total
	60	67	66	96	8	297

Correct:

Checked and approved:

A. S. KIBBE, *Treasurer.*

C. R. SMITH, *Chairman, Finance Committee.*



**JANUARY FIELD TRIP** was taken on Sunday, January 16th, to Lake Merritt, Oakland. For the first time in the history of the Association, rain cancelled the program and scattered the party shortly after eleven o'clock. The feature of the day was furnished by the handsome specimen of male European Widgeon found among the American Baldpates. Sharing interest with this bird was a baldpate with yellow crest, forehead and cheeks. The birds were numerous, but the rain prevented the taking of a census.

Birds encountered about the lake were: Eared and pied-bill grebes; glaucous-winged and California gulls; mallard, European widgeon and baldpates; green-winged teal, shoveller, pintail and canvas-back; lesser scaup, American golden-eye, bufflehead, white-winged scoter young of the year and coots; flicker, meadow lark, Brewer blackbird and linnet; a mixed flock of cedar waxwings and robins. Twenty-two species.

Members present were Mesdemoiselles Ames, Ayer, Burroughs, Cassidy, Cheeseman, Flynn, Griffin, King, Potter, Van Gaasbeck; Mesdames Kibbe and Neugass; Messrs. Kibbe, Thomas and George Wright. Our guests included Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Calhoun, Clark, McGuire and Thomson, Mrs. Bridges and Mr. Bridges. Fifteen members and seven guests.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

### FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Corresponding Secretary .....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer .....	A. S. Kibbe.....	1504 Grove St., Berkeley

Meets second Thursday of each month in Lecture Room of California Development Board,  
Ferry Building, San Francisco.

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